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(54) Title: PROTECTIVE RECOMBINANT HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE HIGH MOLECULAR WEIGHT PROTEINS

(57) Abstract

Protective high molecular weight (HMW) proteins are produced recombinantly by expression from E. coli by using a promoter effective in E. coli and a nucleic acid molecule which contains a modified operon of a non-typeable strain of Haemophilus. The modified operon contains the portion only of the Aregion which encodes the mature HMW protein and the complete B and C regions of the operon. Enhanced levels of expression of the HMW proteins can be achieved by including the E. coli cer gene, a further copy of the portion of the A region of the operon encoding the mature protein or both, in the expression vector. Nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences of the hmwl and hmw2 genes and HMW1 and HMW2 proteins, respectively, of several non-typeable Haemophilus influenzae strain have been identified.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 1038-985 MIS	FOR FURTHER see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.				
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)			
PCT/CA 99/00938	07/10/1999	07/10/1998			
Applicant					
CONNAUGHT LABORATORIES LI	MITED et al.				
This International Search Report has been according to Article 18. A copy is being tra	n prepared by this International Searching Auth Insmitted to the International Bureau	hority and is transmitted to the applicant			
This International Search Report consists It is also accompanied by	of a total of Sheets. a copy of each prior art document cited in this	report.			
1. Basis of the report					
 a. With regard to the language, the interpretation in the language in which it was filed, unlended. 	nternational search was carried out on the bas ess otherwise indicated under this item.	sis of the international application in the			
the international search was Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).	as carried out on the basis of a translation of th	ne international application furnished to this			
 With regard to any nucleotide and was carried out on the basis of the 	d/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the in	ternational application, the international search			
	nal application in written form.				
filed together with the inter	national application in computer readable form	1.			
X furnished subsequently to	this Authority in written form.				
X furnished subsequently to	this Authority in computer readble form.				
the statement that the sub- international application as	sequently furnished written sequence listing do filed has been furnished.	pes not go beyond the disclosure in the			
the statement that the information	mation recorded in computer readable form is	identical to the written sequence listing has been			
2. X Certain claims were foun	d unsearchable (See Box I).				
3. Unity of invention is lack	ing (see Box II).				
4. With regard to the title,					
X the text is approved as sub	mitted by the applicant.				
the text has been establish	ed by this Authority to read as follows:				
E 1868		· .			
5. With regard to the abstract,					
the text is approved as sub- the text has been establish within one month from the c	mitted by the applicant. ed, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority late of mailing of this international search repo	as it appears in Box III. The applicant may,			
6. The figure of the drawings to be publish					
as suggested by the applica	•	X None of the figures.			
because the applicant failed	i to suggest a figure.				
	naracterizes the invention.				

International application No.

Box I	Observations where certain clarms were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This Inte	rnational Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. X	Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
	Although claims 30,31 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
2.	Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3.	Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II	Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This Inte	ernational Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
	see additional sheet
1.	As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2.	As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. 🛛	As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.: 1-36 (inventions 1,2,3)
4.	No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
Remari	The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. X No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.



FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: (1-11, 13-16, 32-36) - completely; (18-20, 25-31) - partly

A nucleic acid molecule comprising a promoter functional in E. coli and operatively coupled to a modified operon of a non-typeable strain of Haemophilus comprising A, B, C genes, wherein the A gene of the operon contains only a nucleic acid sequence which codes for a mature high molecular weight protein of the non-typeable strain of Haemophilus.

Use in immunogenic composition and vaccine formulations.

2. Claims: (18-20) - partly

A plasmid vector for the expression of a high molecular weight protein of a non-typeable strain of Haemophilus and comprising a T7 promoter, a cloning site for the insertion of a nucleic acid molecule into the plasmid, and the portion B and C of the operon of a non-typeable strain of Haemophilus.

3. Claims: (12, 17, 21-31) - partly

An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule encoding a high molecular weight (HMW) protein of a non-typeable strain of Haemophilus influenzae; a corresponding isolated, immunologically protective protein; corresponding immunogenic compositions and vaccine formulations,

WHEREIN the non-typeable strain of Haemophilus influenzae is Joyc (seq. IDs 25-32).

4. Claims: (12, 17, 21-31) - partly

Idem as subject-matter 3, but limited to strain K21 (seq. IDs 33-41).

5. Claims: (12, 17, 21-31) - partly

Idem as subject-matter 3, but limited to strain LCC2 (seq. IDs 42-49).

6. Claims: (12, 17, 21-31) - partly

Idem as subject-matter 3, but limited to strain PMH1 (seq. IDs 50-57).



7. Claims: (12, 17, 21-31) - partly

Idem as subject-matter 3, but limited to strain PMH15 (seq. IDs 58-65).

International Application No PCT/CA 99/00938

a. classification of subject matter IPC 7 C12N15/70 C12N A61K38/16

C12N1/21

C07K14/285 A61K31/70

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) $IPC \ 7 \ C12N \ C07K \ A61K$

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim N
X	WO 97 36914 A (BARENKAMP STEPHEN J) 9 October 1997 (1997-10-09) cited in the application abstract examples 1-10	17,18, 21,22, 25-31
Y A		19,20 1-16,23, 24,32-36

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent family members are listed in annex.			
 Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search 	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family			
18 May 2000	Date of mailing of the international search report D 5. 06. 00			
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International Application No PCT_CA 99/00938

	PCTZCA 99/00938
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Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Information on patent family members

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